# THE CROSBY VOICE

Issue No.13
May, 1980

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY
Registered for posting as a periodical - Category B.

IN MEMORIUM

KEITH GORDON HYDE

MARCH 31ST 1980

Hello again,

Leading off our second major newsletter for 1980 is the very sad news of Keith Hyde's passing on March 31st. Although Keith had not enjoyed good health in recent years, his last illness was unexpected but mercifully short. It was a little more than 12 weeks from when Keith first learnt that he had cancer to his passing, but he bore his difficulties well and in good spirits. A dedicated Crosby man, his last appearance at a club function was the film evening of February 11th. At that time, apart from seeming a little tired, he was his usual self but his condition began deteriorating shortly after that. I don't suppose that any of us realized how serious it was; certainly, until I received a phone call from Jack Larkins a few days before the end warning me that the doctors had given Keith only a short time to go, I was not aware of how bad things were. Thank goodness, because of Jack, I was able to see Keith once more and thanks to the co-operation of Japanese member Kyoichi Muneta, I was able to brighten his last hours a little. To explain the last mentioned; Keith had asked me to order a copy of the new Japanese V-Disc for him and knowing of his illness, I thought it wise to ask Kyoichi to send the disc by air mail. Although not aware how little time that Keith had remaining when I sent off my letter, this proved to be a timely move. The record arrived only the day before I went to visit Keith, thanks to Kyoichi's prompt action, and he was genuinely delighted to receive it.
Keith retained his interest in anything to do with Bing to the very end. Adrian Fowler also arrived to visit

about the same time as I did and Keith spent a lot of time enthusiastically showing us his first-off-the-press copy of Ken Barnes' new book on Bing, incidentally, personally signed by Ken.
Adrian and I left after about an hour as Keith was obviously tired and outside, Edna, Keith's wife, confirmed that there was little time remaining.
How little time that was to be was brought home to me on the morning after our Monday Meeting by a number of phone calls telling me that Keith had passed away the night before.
The funeral was held at the Fawkner Cemetary on the following Thursday and it was obvious from the large crowd that overflowed the chapel, that Keith was a man respected and loved by many.
To many, the most moving part of the ceremony came at the end of the service when, following Keith's request, Bing's recording of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" was played. I know that all of us who were there that day will think of Keith Hyde whenever we hear that song.
To Keith's widow may we extend our deepest sympathy and if there is ever anything we can do, the facilities of the Victorian Bing Crosby Society are at your service.

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## A TRIBUTE FROM GORDON WALL

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(Gordon, one of Keith's closest friends, sent this tribute for publication.)

I first met Keith in a record shop, way back in 1938. Although the war separated us, we resumed our association a year or two after it ended. Over the years, our friendship developed and by the late 1950's, we were really close friends. From then on, we corresponded and phoned one another regularly and on each of the yearly visits I made to Melbourne from Adelaide, never once did I leave without visiting Keith. Many times, in fact, I stayed at his home, mostly because we talked so much that it became too late to get back to my hotel! And now Keith has gone. The stature of the man was

proven by the large attendance at his funeral. Keith, to me, was a fellow of great integrity, honesty and generosity; a fellow whom I never heard say anything against other collectors.
Keith was a placid man and always had a calming effect on me . I used to get quite wound up over business affairs in Melbourne but the tensions were always removed after an hour or two with Keith. I can still hear him saying "We know you have business problems Gordon. Forget them and just have a good time with us." And you know, I always did.
Some wives resent other collectors presence in their homes, but that was not the case with Edna; she helped Keith to collect and always made other collectors most welcome whenever they visited. Keith's passing is a great loss to Edna and I feel for her. As for me, I miss him, I miss him, I miss him.

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If there is something that you would like us to print about Keith, please drop us a line. All letters will be gladly printed. BM.

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## PAST FUNCTIONS

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MONDAY MARCH 31ST, FILM EVENING

Over fifty members turned up for a re-screening of Bing's 1936 movie "Pennies from Heaven" which we first screened about two years ago; they weren't disappointed. Pennies from Heaven is a movie which can be seen over and over again. Overseas and interstate members will find the souvenir sheet from the night enclosed with this newsletter.
In addition, to the above named movie, we also screened a 1929 epic "Vagabond Lover" starring the one and only Rudy Vallee. This film may be, unintentionally, the funniest movie that we have ever shown at our movie evenings. To call Rudy Vallee's performance 'dreadful'

would be praising it just a little bit too much. Even Rudy admits as much in his autobiography (two copies of which we have to give away at our next meeting - more about that later). The only saving grace in the movie was a fine performance by Marie Dressler, one of the great ladies of the early sound era.

During the interval between the two movies, a super 8 sound movie was made featuring a number of the members present. The movie was taken for the express purpose of sending to Ken Twiss for showing at his May tribute to Bing at Tacoma, Washington and I'm happy to say that it turned out just fine. You all look good and sound good and hopefully, if Ken is able to arrange it, a movie will be made at his gettogether and sent to us. At any rate, we have asked Ken to return our movie when he is through with it, so that will be shown at a future function. And speaking of what's to come, here are our:

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FUTURE FUNCTIONS

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(Late last year, we sent you a complete list of dates for 1980. The following supercedes that list entirely and as a number of the dates have changed, we would appreciate your checking your original list closely.)

First, a brief rundown for the rest of the year.

Monday - May 26 - Music Evening
Monday - July 7 - Film Evening
Monday - August 25 - Music Evening
Saturday - Sept 20 - Dinner Dance (Tentative only!)
Monday - Oct 27 - A.G.M. + movie
Sunday - Nov 16 - Barbecue
Monday - Dec 1 - Music or Film Evening

Now, in more detail, our next function.

<u>MONDAY MAY 26TH - MUSIC EVENING</u>

As usual, the music Committee lead by Bill Bennett will be getting together a selection of interesting Crosby

.../8

# National Film Theatre

**NFT is planning an imported season of "Jazz on Film", containing rare archival footage, to screen later in the year. As a prelude to this, we are screening The King of Jazz and Stormy Weather in our current program.**

## The King of Jazz

*USA 1930. Dir: John Murray Anderson. With: Paul Whiteman Orch. Bing Crosby and the Rhythm Boys, Slim Summerville, John Boles, Laura La Plante. 100 mins.*

**Spectacular musical extravaganza, in early Technicolor, featuring a variety of popular entertainers of the time. The Whiteman band includes such luminaries as Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang. Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" is a highlight.**

**Ade: 4 Jun; Bris: 25 Jun; Can: 7 Jul; Fre: 10 Jun; Melb: 1 Jul; Syd: 4 Jul.**

The King of Jazz

The Herald, Tues., April 29, 1980

# Bing was so quiet: Mary

BING CROSBY's only daughter, 21-year-old MARY, says that one of the things people never realised about her father "is that basically he was a very quiet and private man. At least in the second half of his life."

Mary Crosby, who played Kristen in TV's "Dallas" is making a new TV series, "Dick Turpin" and says that the Old Groaner settled down after he married her mother Kathy: "As a young man he was quite a tearaway and a man about town."

But, all this changed, says Mary.

"There was almost something puritanical about him. For as long as I could remember my father and my mother never entertained friends at home. Dad just didn't believe in it.

And he never saw much of Bob Hope: "I can't ever remember Bob and his wife Dolores ever coming to visit us at home. He was a very unemotional person, you know. It was only in the last couple of years of his life that he would actually walk down the street with me and hold my hand."

Listening to "White Christmas" will never be the same.

# VARIETY

PRICE 25 CENTS

Published Weekly at 154 West 46th St., New York, N. Y., by Variety, Inc. Annual subscription, $8. Single copies, 25 cents.
Entered as second class matter December 28, 1905, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.

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items to play for us. The music evening starts sharp at 8.00 so please be on time. During the evening there will be Crosby records to be won plus, as mentioned earlier, two copies of Rudy Vallee's autobiography "Rudy Vallee Kisses and Tells" in which the Vagabond lover has some fascinating stories on the people he worked with. Bing gets a number of mentions, all favourable, and a couple of these have been printed on the last page of this newsletter. Thanks to member Clem Parkinson who provided these books to give away.

Location of the meeting is, as always, the theatrette of the Mobil Building, 2 City Road, South Melbourne, just round the back of the Art Centre construction site.

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AMERICAN VISITORS

In recent times, we have had two visitors from the USA. One, Cathrine Wilson from California, should have been mentioned in our rundown on our last film evening. Cathrine, who was visiting Australia for several weeks at the time, came along with Audrey Evans. Nice meeting you Cathrine and I hope we'll see you here again one day.

Our other visitor was member Richard Pearson from the state of Virginia. Richard dropped in during the latter part of February and as he was a long time correspondant with Franc Tarran, the Committee decided that we should take Richard out for dinner. Bing's Restaurant seemed to be the logical choice and a table was booked for several couples. Along with Franc and his wife Heather, there were Thelma and Frank Wood, Betty and Ken Orren, Les Saynor, Jim McManus and Wilma Baxter, Keith Dorman and his wife and yours truly and wife. A great evening was had by all and Bing's Restaurant is highly recommended. They'll even play your Crosby cassettes over the music system if you bring them along. Due to the success of the evening, we are considering holding a dinner dance there in September. However, this year we will require bookings plus complete payment a month ahead of time! No repeat of last year PLEASE.

## PAGES 6 & 7 EXPLAINED

The material featured on pages 6 and 7 is worthy of further comment.

On Page 6, you'll see that the National Film Theatre is screening our print of King of Jazz as a prelude to their Jazz on Film programme which they have scheduled for later this year. Amongstthe many films to be screened (and a full list is yet to be published) are St Louis Blues (1929), Stormy Weather (1943), Murder in Swingtime (1937) and a short (1939) featuring Hoagy Carmichael and Jack Teagarden.

In Melbourne, all screenings will be at the State Film Centre, 1 Macarthur St, East Melbourne. For details of dates, costs, etc, ring (in Melbourne) 347 6888. Members in other states, please check your phone books.

## VARIETY FRONT PAGE - 1928

Here's a fascinating glimpse of the Paul Whiteman Orch. just over a year after Bing first joined. Although some of the faces and names are a little difficult to read, those of particular interest are:

Top row: (1st) Harry Barris, (2nd) Bix Beiderbecke,
(7th) Tommy (shown as Tom) Dorsey.

2nd row: (1st) Jimmy (shown as James) Dorsey.

3rd row: (2nd) Bing!

4th row: (3rd) Al Rinker

5th row: (1st) Frankie Traumbaur.

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VIDEOCASSETTE OWNERS - PLEASE READ
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1. A new establishment specializing in videocassettes of movies has opened at 1100 High St, Armadale. The name of the business is Hollywood House and amongst other things, they have three of Bing's Mack Sennett shorts. Ring 509 6761 for further details.

2. Interested in buying Bing's movies on cassette? No promises, but please let us know.

## JOIN THE BING CROSBY PHOTO AND TAPE CLUB

Regular readers will know that we are happy to give publicity to the other Crosby organizations around the world. However, one group that I seem to have ignored a little is Frank Murphy's 'Bing Crosby Photo and Tape Club' in the U.K.

This was brought home to me in the latest issue of the Club magazine 'Bing Pictorial' where Frank draws attention to the fact that the magazine is doing well in all countries except Australia where there are a grand total of four subscribers! Surely we can do a little better than that, especially with all that membership in the club offers.

As the name implies, this really is a 'photo and tape' club. Frank and his boys have at their disposal many hundreds of black and white and colour photographs of Bing stretching over his entire career, for sale. The album we bring along to club meetings features just a small fragment of what is available.

In addition, the club has a tape service with dozens of different radio broadcasts, etc, for sale to members on cassette.

Of particular interest are the Bob Robert's scrapbooks which feature regularly on the pages of the magazine. Bob, until his death, was one of the leading Crosby collectors in the world, and his scrap books feature clippings and articles going right back to the early 1930's. Frank recently purchased these books from Bob's widow.

Membership in the Club costs the equivalent of two pounds 80p per year for surface mail delievery of their quarterly magazine.

Please address all enquiries to: The Bing Crosby Photo and Tape Club, 32 Ferndale Ave, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear NE 28 7NE, United Kingdom.

It's worth writing to ask Frank for just one copy of the magazine. You won't be disappointed.

EVENING CHRONICLE, Friday, March 21, 1980

BING CROSBY fans were among those who contributed towards this expensive piece of hospital equipment.

When they heard the Newcastle Lions Club had launched a fund to buy an oxygen monitor worth £2,000 for the Princess Mary Hospital, the Old Crooners Appreciation Society decided to help.

And their special fun-raising night was not the only contribution. Lions president Mr. Ian Bobinson says that staff and customers in Prestos in Gosforth High Street gave "marvellous support" to a shopping spree draw. The club's regular supporters were also generous, he said.

Pictured with Mr. Bobinson (left) at the handing over ceremony are Sister Cecily Callender, Dr. Hans Steiner, Lion Brian Richardson and Lion Gerald Farnell.

The fund was launched after the Lions read about the Tiny Lives Appeal in the Evening Chronicle.

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THE CROSBYS OF HOLLYWOOD
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(Reprinted from 'Look' magazine, 1960)

From humble beginnings came love, beauty, warmth --- and family pride.

The 20th century has seen the rise of many dynasties of great wealth in the United States - among them the Rockefellers of New York (founded on oil), the Kennedys of Boston (founded on Wall Street) and the Kellys of Philadelphia (founded on the construction trades). To these now must be added the Crosbys of Hollywood - founded on an extraordinary set of mellifluous vocal chords. Bing Crosby's family is worth about $50,000,000. Bing has investments in real estate, oil, agriculture, movies, record companies, radio and TV stations, a motor boat firm and a major-league baseball club, the Pittsburgh Pirates.
Son Philip, with money inherited from his mother, is part owner of a chain of prosperous Mexican-food stands in California. Bing's wife Kathryn earns what he calls "a tidy sum" as an actress.

The Crosbys, like other great dynasties, had humble beginnings, Bing's mother, nee Catherine Harrigan, migrated as a young girl from Minnesota to Tacoma, Washington, nearly three-quarters of a century ago. She had seven children and twenty-one grand children. She refuses to tell her age or how many great-grand children she has, lest that give away a hint to her age.

One of her five sons was Harry, nicknamed Bing. Unlike his older brothers, all businessmen, Bing began a career as a singer in the 1920's.

In 1931, he got his first movie job in a film called "Confessions of a Coed". His fee was $500.

cont.../17

*Bing tries new songs on daughter Mary Frances. He calls her "Princess."*

the HOLLYWOOD

# PALACE

FOR

PRESENTATION ON ABC-TV

* SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1968 *

# PROGRAM

* NOTE: The position which an act is allotted on the program does not in the least reflect upon its merit. When a bill is made up almost exclusively of headliners — a frequent occurrence at the Hollywood Palace — every number is worthy of the "star spot" on ordinary vaudeville bills. It is only fair to the artist, therefore, to judge his work solely upon its merits. *

* Our 5th * Birthday Host

## BING CROSBY

Bing Sings The Palace Back To Sat. Night *

## JIMMY DURANTE

*MR. D. JOINS THE CELEBRATION*

Stars of the Moscow Circus

## THE SOLOKHINS

# PHIL HARRIS

PHIL HELPS US OPEN THE 5TH

Prettiest Gal At The Party **PEGGY LEE**

# ROSY GRIER

ALL-STAR TACKLE TACKLES A TUNE

Front Line Of Football & Music **FEARSOME FOURSOME**

Roger Brown, David "Deacon" Jones, Lamar Lundy, Merlin Olsen

# MILTON BERLE

DROPPING BY FOR A FEW THOUSAND LAFFS

*HAIL TO THE PRIDE OF GONZAGA U.* **TRIBUTE TO A GRID GREAT**

# BING & PEGGY

Two For The Harmony

GREAT MOMENTS AT THE PALACE **FLASHBACKS OF '68**

# A SATURDAY NITE GOODNITE

*BING & CAST CUT THE CAKE*

**Mitchell Ayres** AND THE **Hollywood Palace Orchestra**

## A ZODIAC PRODUCTION

Executive Producer - NICK VANOFF

Producer - WILLIAM O. HARBACH

*After having five boys in a row, Bing, with son Harry, 1½, is ecstatic over first girl in dynasty.*

From.../13.
Today, at 55, Bing probably earns that much money every hour. "It's nice to have the money", he says, "but it's still nicer to be with Kathrine and little Harry and Mary Francis, and to have my whole family around me, and to see my four older boys all doing so well."

As in all families, there have been differences and blowups among the Crosbys; but the inherited affection and humour and clan spirit of the Irish always bring them together again. In the last few months, they have instituted what they call "Crosby Sunday Afternoons". Every Sunday after church (the Crosbys are Catholics), the clan gathers at Bing's stately mansion in the Holmby Hills section of Los Angeles. Kathryn is the hostess and spark plug of the gatherings. Sometimes, Bing is away (as he was recently while making his new 20th Century-Fox film "High Time"); sometimes his twin sons Dennis and Philip,25, and Lindsay, 22, are off in Las Vegas or elsewhere with their highly successful night-club act; sometimes, eldest son Gary,26, is out of town with his new solo act. But on most Sundays, Kathryn is there to welcome those Crosbys who are in the Los Angeles area.

During the week, she pauses in her laboratory or class-work at Immaculate Heart College, where she is studying to be a nurse, and phones Dennis's wife Pat, Philip's wife Sandra and Lindsay's wife Barbara to make arrange-ments for the coming Sunday afternoon. Kathryn usually prepares a roast, and each of the girls brings a vegetable or salad or dessert for the family luncheon. The boys and their sub-clans arrive en masse. The children play, the men throw a football or baseball around, their wives discuss recipes or diets.

Bings 25-room mansion, where he formerly lived alone,was once described by a famous comedian as a "mausoleum in Cinemascope." It is a mausoleum no longer. Every Sunday afternoon, it is alive with the sounds of babies, show-business talk and reunion - the exciting sounds of a new dynasty in action.

END

# The Bing Crosby Plaque

THE BING CROSBY COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE
AT THE LONDON PALLADIUM

A special invitation to share a special tribute.

On the 29th March this year, Bob Hope unveiled the original model for the bronze commemorative plaque of Bing Crosby. It will be seen on permanent display inside the main entrance of The London Palladium, where the great Bing Crosby made his last appearance.

This quite unique tribute to Bing Crosby was due in no small measure to the efforts of members of the INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE. The plaque is the only one of its kind to be sited at the London Palladium and has been very warmly received by all who have seen it.

By arrangement with the Palladium Management, the sculptor Philip Nathan FRBS, who designed the original, will make a miniature copy of the plaque to be struck in bronze and sterling silver, which will then be available to everyone who would like to share in this tribute to Bing. The size of the plaque will be approximately 2½ inches by 1¾ inches.

The mini-plaque can be purchased by members of the ICC at an all-inclusive discount price, by ordering on this special form. Please allow 8 to 10 weeks for delivery.

Please accept my order for:

☐ Bronze Bing Crosby plaque(s) @ £10.00
☐ Silver Bing Crosby plaque(s) @ £22.50

Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to IMAGO, and sent with this form to the address below.

NAME . . . . . .
(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)
ADDRESS . . . . . .

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IMAGO, PO Box 15, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8HB.

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A TRIBUTE TO BING IN TACOMA II
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(Ken Twiss of The Bing Crosby Historical Society has kindly supplied the following details of Tacoma tribute at the start of this month. Sounds good.)

MAY 2 - 7.30 pm. An evening of rare Bing films that will include "Please" and "Here is my Heart" plus some newsreel clips.

MAY 3 - 10.00 am.- 4.00 pm. Bus Tour to places associated with the Crosby family plus a trip to Olympia, about 30 miles south, for a look at TUMWATER HOUSE, the home that Bing's grandfather Nathanial built in 1860.

6.30 pm. Banquet at 565 Club Main Ballroom. Prime Rib dinner, followed by entertainment.

Fr. Arthur L. Dussault, S.J. Vice President of Gonzaga University, will give the invocation and talk about Bing and Gonzaga.

Rosemary Clooney.

Roy Chappell, a night club singer from Manchester England.

Robert Pasch from Lansing Mich. Imitations of Bing.

Al Sutton, pres. Club Crosby. Greetings.

John Salisbury KXL Portland - the Crosby Years.

Caroline Dawson, pres. Kathryn Crosby Fan Club.

Master of Ceremonies - Bill Osborn.

AFTER all this entertainment, the full length film K.J. will be shown.

MAY 3 & 4 - From 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, some Bing TV specials will be shown. One large screen TV has been procured and one regular TV.

(Like to attend next year? Read on over the page.)

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ON THE DRAWING BOARDS - A GROUP BOOKING TO THE USA IN MAY 1981 INCLUDING A VISIT TO THE TACOMA MEETING.

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Ken Twiss is very keen to have visitors from overseas at next years tribute. The best way to tell you about his plans, is, I think, to quote from his letter.

"The tour itself will be a total of 16 days. At this time, the agency here is figuring on about US$100 per day. That would include transportation, hotels and three meals a day in most places with only a couple of exceptions.

This price is based on a minimum of 20. That would be the total number from Australia AND England. Maximum would be 39. If the 39 places were sold, the cost would be less.

So if you could get 6 or 7 and Frank Murphy in the UK could get 12 or 13, then the tour could be possible. The actual tour would start the day after our tribute.

The travel agency here would need a $100 deposit, refundable up to 6 months before the tour in case of cancellation. However, after 6 months, half of that amount would go to cover cancellation costs.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU CAN GET 6 OR 7 PEOPLE. Then I'll give the go ahead for planning."

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Well, there you are. Although it's still early days, it is important that you give us an indication NOW if you might be able to come. This will not commit you to attending, but it will make it possible for Ken to organize something in time. Please advise now.

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FOR SALE - 20 TACOMA SOUVENIR DISCS FROM THE 1980 MEETING

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Each year, Ken Twiss produces a special souvenir 45 rpm disc featuring 4 rare Crosby items. This year's disc

includes the never previously issued recording"Anthem of the Clams", recorded by Bing for a group of friends in the early 1960's.

Ten copies of this disc will be set aside for members applying by mail (sorry, Australian members only.) and ten will be sold, if they arrive in time, at our next meeting on May 26th, otherwise they will be held until our July 7 Film evening.

Exact cost is unknown as yet. Please do not send money at this time.

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NEW RECORD RELEASES

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Although things continue to be depressed on the local scene, records are literally pouring out overseas! Incidentally, the Bentleigh Sewing and Record Centre, 348 Centre Rd, Bentleigh, reports that they have recently received a new shipment of imported records. Members get 10% discount when they buy there.

Now, onto the new releases overseas.

. A tribute to Bing Crosby - Libra VII Records. An interesting record featuring a collection of Bing/ Buddy Cole tracks from radio broadcasts of the 1950's. Cost is US$6.98 + post and packing and is available by mail from: Libra VII, c/o Columbia Records, PO Box 5946, Terre Haute, Indiana 47804, USA.

. Mail Call Vol II This reissue of more WWII broadcasts features Bing, Judy Garland, Bob Hope, Jerry Colonna and Mel Blanc. Produced by Tandem Records, Box 126, Reseda, California 91335, USA.

. The Mad Fiddler from Phillie - Joe Venuti This one features airchecks from 1952-53 radio shows featuring Bing and Venuti. Great stuff, even though Bing is only there to introduce Venuti. Write to: Shoestring Records, PO Box 10218, Oakland, California 94610, USA.

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COLLECTOR'S
CORNER

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1. ALI BABA AND THE 40 THIEVES

In 1957, Bing recorded three LP's of childrens stories for some business friends. All were originally issued on the 'Golden Masterpiece' label, but until last year, when all were re-issued in the U.K., the records were very hard to find.

2. THE SECOND TIME AROUND

Unfortunately, there has never been a "second time around" for this elusive 45. Although most people associate the song with Frank Sinatra, it really was Bing's originally. Sinatra had the hit version though and Bing's never sold too well. This publicity copy is the only one that I have ever seen.

3. TIE A YELLOW RIBBON

For a recent record by Bing, this is also a very hard-to-find item. The problem is that unlike Bing's other records of the 1970's, this never has been issued on LP. And the problem with Bing's 45's is that the kind of people who tend to buy them in the first place are the kind of people who never part with them!

. Bing Crosby - 20 Golden Greats Another in the MCA series out of the UK featuring a collection of 20 Crosby numbers from the 30's and 40's. Worth having to fill the gaps in your collection, but wait, don't import the set. It will probably be issued here in a few months like its predecessors.

. The Many Faces of Bing Crosby - Oxford OX/3053 Another collection of early material, this time, from Italy. Not all are common reissues, though. There are tracks, like 'Dance Ballerina Dance", "J'Attendrai", "Lily Bolero" and "Thanks" and "One More Time"! (From the sound of the last two, someone must have raided the Columbia and RCA files as well as Decca!)

. Holiday Inn Original Soundtrack - Sunbeam STK 112 This one features the actual soundtrack numbers from the movie, and well worth having if you don't have a tape of the original. Try the Bentleigh Centre for this.

. Bob Hope - 3 LP set An interesting set featuring material from radio and TV from the 30's to the 70's with guests such as Bing, Jolson, Cantor, Garland and Kermit and Miss Piggy! Available on discs or cassettes in both standard presentation (around $20) and Deluxe presentation (around $30). For more details, write to: Bob Hope Collection, PO Box 6326, Denver, Colorado, 80206, USA.

Not many details on the following, but will include them for interest, anyway. Fuller details when to hand:

. Amalgamated Records has issued major portions of two broadcasts featuring Bing with Nat King Cole.

. Spokane Records (See next page) have issued Vol 19 - an hour long Kraft Music Hall with Connee Boswell, Bob Burns, Duke Ellington.

. Philips should have issued the next Ken Barnes Bing and Buddy Cole LP by now. Reported title: "Come Rain or Come Shine". UK release only at this stage.

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## THE SPOKANE STORY

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In theearly 1970's, a man named Larry Kiner began issuing Crosby radio show material on LP on his own Spokane label, Spokane being the city where Bing spent his growing-up years after the family left Tacoma. As Larry states :"Spokane is the only record label dedicated entirely to the preservation of Bing's performances."

So far, there have been 19 different Spokane issues and all are still available. In Melbourne, the Bentleigh Centre has a number, or if they don't, you might like to write to Larry at: Nostalgia, PO Box 82, Redmond, Washington 98502, USA.

The first 16 Spokane titles are:

1. Bing Crosby on the air - from Cremo, Woodbury, KMH.
2. Kraft Music Hall of March 12, 1942.
3. Kraft Music Hall of April 30, 1942.
4. Kraft Music Hall of April 14, 1942.
5. Der Bingle - VOL 1 (WW2 programme & songs)
6. Happy Holiday (1944 Xmas show)
7. Kraft Music Hall of May 27, 1937.
8. Lux Radio Theatre - Sing you Sinners (Jan 15, 1940)
9. Screen Guild Theatre - Birth of the Blues (Jan 23, 51)
10. Der Bingle - VOL 2 (WW2 songs)
11. Kraft Music Hall of January 29, 1942.
12. Bing in the 30's - Vol 1 (KMH songs)
13. Kraft Music Hall of December 24, 1942.
14. Bing in the 30's - Vol 2 (KMH songs)
15. Holiday Inn and The Bells of St Marys.
16. Music Hall Highlights - Vol 1.

(Unsure of the contents of 17 and 18. For 19, see p 24)

As the owner of a number of Spokane records, I can vouch for the quality and the contents. For more details, write to Larry direct. An international reply coupon available at your post office will help keep his mailing costs down.

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## BITS AND PIECES

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### # NEVILLE WRAGG BACK ON 3AW

When we last heard from Neville, he was presenting a Saturday afternoon nostalgia show on 3AW with the help of Paul Cronin of "The Sullivans" and Lennie Holmes. That show was a great success prior to last Christmas. Well, Neville has returned to 3AW again, this time on Sunday nights between 10.00 pm and midnight, to present his programme "Remember When" with the assistance of Clark Sinclair. Of minor interest is the news that yours truly will be popping in every second Sunday (alternating with Bill Weeden of the Sinatra Society) to give a five minute bulletin on what's happening with our club and to play the odd rare Crosby track. Make sure you catch Neville's show every Sunday. It's good listening.

### # SAD TO NOTE THE PASSING OF

Dick Haymes, Cicely Courtneidge, Jane Froman and Alfred Hitchcock. I realize that apart from Haymes who appeared on Bing's record of "Anything you can do" with the Andrews Sisters, the others don't really have anything to do with Crosby, but it gives me the chance to work in the line that Alfred Hitchcock was once quoted as saying that he wanted on his tombstone: "See what happens to you if you're a naughty boy".

### # NEW SINATRA 3 LP SET

Good to see that Frank Sinatra has returned to the recording studios again. His new 3 lp set "Trilogy" is reported to be selling very well overseas. That sort of news is good for everyone.

### # RUMOURS RUMOURS RUMOURS

There are reports from America that someone has tracked down a 1930 broadcast from the Coconut Grove nightclub featuring Bing with Gus Arnhiem and that it could be issued on an LP. Another rumour says that a 1920's show with Bing and Whiteman has also turned up. Wait and see.

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HAVE KEN BARNES' BOOK ON BING SENT TO YOU FROM ENGLAND

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Ken Barnes' long awaited book on Bing is finally out in the UK. Frank Murphy (address page 10) is prepared to send out copies to overseas members. Total cost: twelve pounds. Please send bank draft or IMO to Frank.

# FOR SALE - COUNTRY & WESTERN 78 COLLECTION

Paul B. DeMane Jr, 29 Lamont Circle, Cortland N.Y. 13045 USA, has a large collection of C & W items which he wishes to dispose of in a single lot, although he is prepared to accept monthly payments to ease the strain. Paul also has a collection of about 400 sweet bands (1935 - 55) and about 400 vocals (1938 - 55) which he also wishes to sell, same terms if desired. Please write Paul direct for more details.

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LETTERS

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From Kyoichi Muneta, 1-19-21 Nakakosaka, Higashi-Osaka, Japan.

I was very sad to hear that Keith Hyde has passed away. I pray for the repose of his soul. (Kyoichi is interested in hearing from Australian collectors who would like to exchange Australian LP issues for Japanese issues. He has a list of records which he will be glad to send. BM)

From Frank McAllister, Harrisburg

I notice that a few people I correspond with have become members of your society. They all seem to be nice people. The picture you featured in the last issue was one that Bing seemed to like. He sent me a letter requesting a copy of the negative. We took 60 exposures that night. Bing was in great voice and it was a packed house. One of the greatest nights in my life.

From Josie Conway, GTV 9 Re. your query on Ned Sparks, real name: Edward Sparkman. Born 1883, died 1957. Canadian. Specialized in grouchy reporter, etc, roles.

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FROM OUT OF THE PAST

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(An extract from "Rudy Vallee Kisses and Tells")

In the Summer if 1931, I received a phone call from song writer Con Conrad. He asked if I would have dinner with him as he wanted me to meet a young Italian boy - Russ Columbo. Russ turned out ot be anything but a boy! He was six feet tall and wore Johnson and Murphy shoes which were sported only by men of the world who could afford them.)

After Columbo excused himself to make a phone call, Conrad confided in me that when they had come East by train they had brought with them a portable phonograph and all the Crosby records they could find. During the entire three-and-a-half day trip, they had played these records over and over again so that Columbo could get every trick and nuance if the Crosby delivery.

I remembered a bit of gossip that I had heard somewhere, how Gus Arnhiem who was playing at the Coconut Grove in 1930 had been featuring Crosby as a singer, and on the nights when Crosby decided to belt the bottle, Columbo who was one of the string section, would sing.

About 12.40 I announced to the large roof audience that they were going to hear a young singer from California who was auditioning for Earl Carroll and I would appreciate their attention. Columbo sang in dance tempo so those who wished to might dance. He was halfway through the first song when it became obvious to anyone who heard a Crosby song that he was doing an out-and-out imitation of Bing. As I heard him sing "Ah, But I surrender Dear-ear-ear" with the familiar Crosby half-trill on the word "dear", I fully expected shouts from the crowd of "imitator!" "phony!" But at three minutes to one they were clamouring for more, and I believe that we played 15 minutes overtime before they were happy.

END

And that's it for this issue.
See you at our next meeting.

Bob Mackie